

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KINSHA 11421 011535Z
ACTION SY-05

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C O N F I D E N T I A L KINSHASA 11421

DEPARTMENT FOR SY/FO; FROM RSO KINSHASA

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ASEC
SUBJECT: VIOLENT CRIME IN KINSHASA

REF: A) STATE 276130 B) STATE 216751

1. REFTEL ARRIVED AS RSO AND SY/AF OPERATIONS OFFICER
KOLESNIK WERE DISCUSSING IN DETAIL RSO'S HANDLING OF SUBJECT
PROBLEM. KOLESNIK MADE COMPARATIVE REVIEW OF PROGRAM ESTAB-
LISHED IN TEHRAN AND OTHER POSTS FACED WITH SIMILAR PROBLEM.
COMMAND CENTER CONCEPT IS NOW UNDER STUDY HERE.

2. A ROVING PATROL PROGRAM SIMILAR TO THAT OF OTHER POSTS IS
HARDER TO ACCOMPLISH BECAUSE OF NATURE OF POLICE HERE AND
SCARCITY OF SUITABLE GROUP OF PREVIOUSLY-TRAINED PERSONNEL.
CERTAIN ASPECTS OF SUCH A PROGRAM, SUCH AS ISSUANCE OF ARMS,
POLITICALLY UNFEASIBLE AND CONTRARY TO LOCAL LAW. FURTHER,
POST CANNOT CURRENTLY SUSTAIN PROGRAM DUE TO LACK OF VEHICLES
AND PENDING RESOLUTION OF FUNDING FOR ADDITIONS TO POST VEHICLE
FLEET (REFTEL B). MAINTENANCE OF VEHICLES WOULD CON-
STITUTE MAJOR PROBLEM AS WOULD LACK OF SPARE PARTS. WE
ARE, HOWEVER, MODIFYING SENTINEL PROGRAM BY GIVING PRIOR-
ITY IN RECRUITMENT TO FORMER POLICE/MILITARY PERSONNEL.
THE FOUR INSPECTORS IN RADIO-EQUIPPED VEHICLES CARRYING RE-
SERVE SENTINELS ON 24-HOUR DAILY PATROLS CONSTITUTE A
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PAGE 02 KINSHA 11421 011535Z

RECONNAISSANCE AND EARLY ALERT CAPABILITY. INSPECTORS ALSO
BRING POLICE WHEN RESIDANCES UNDER ATTACK.

3. YOUR COMMENTS CONCERNING PROLONGED RSO STAND-BY CER-
TAINLY STRUCK RESPONSIVE NOTE WITH RSO'S. PLEASE NOTE
THAT RSO'S HAVE NOT ASSUMED ROLE OF "TOWN MARSHAL", BUT
RATHER HAVE ATTEMPTED TO MANAGE FAST-MOVING SITUATIONS TO

INSURE THAT ALL AVAILABLE SUPPORT CAPABILITIES ARE INITIA-
TED AND TO MANAGE AND RESOLVE ON-SITE PROBLEMS.
FYI: ONE RSO TRAVELS REPEATEDLY TO BRAZZAVILLE AND THE
OTHER IS SCHEDULED FOR TRAVEL TO THREE OTHER POSTS. ALL
POSTS IN REGION WILL BE VISITED WITHIN NEXT 12 WEEKS TO
REESTABLISH RESPONSIVE AND BALANCED REGIONAL SECURITY
SUPPORT PROGRAM.

4. RSO AND POST APPRECIATE OFFER OF ASSISTANCE CONTAINED
PARA 4 REFTEL A AND ARE IMPRESSED WITH SPEED AND REQUESTED
SUPPORT GIVEN BY SY TO DATE. WE HAVE RECEIVED ALL REQUES-
TED LOCKS, AIR HORNS AND ADDITIONAL BATTERIES FOR ALARMS.
SHEET METAL IS NOW BEING PURCHASED IN LAGOS FOR DOOR
SHEATHING. TEMPORARY RADIOS HAVE BEEN RECEIVED FROM
NAIROBI AND WE AWAIT RADIOS FROM OC. OUR PROBLEM RE-
GARDING VEHICLES NOTED PARA 2 IS NOT REALLY AN SY PROB-
LEM, ALTHOUGH FUTURE SUPPORT MAY BE REQUESTED. HOWEVER,
RSO IS SEARCHING FOR A SUITABLE AMERICAN CIT CONTRACT EMPLOYEE
FOR POSITION OF SUPERVISOR OF 223-MAN SENTINEL FORCE. THIS
TASK NOW OCCUPIES INORDINATE AMOUNT OF BOTH RSO'S TIME AND
INTERFERES WITH PROPER SUPPORT TO OTHER POSTS, YET CANNOT
BE NEGLECTED. IF A SUITABLE CANDIDATE IS FOUND, SY SUPPORT
MAY BE SOLICITED. THIS OPTION WAS DISCUSSED WITH KOLESNIK
AND, IN FACT, WAS SUGGESTED BY RSS GARRETT DURING HIS
LAST INSPECTION.

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PAGE 03 KINSHA 11421 011535Z

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